

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13  
ACDA-07 /091 W  
-----061819Z 085947 /44

R 061732Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3659  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 16596

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PLAB, FR  
SUBJECT: LABOR VIOLENCE IN REIMS

1. SUMMARY: AN OUTBURST OF APPARENTLY IRRATIONAL  
VIOLENCE IN REIMS HAS LEFT ONE STRIKER DEAD, TWO  
OTHERS WOUNDED, AND THE POLITICAL LEFT WITH AN INCIDENT  
OF SOME PROPAGANDA POTENTIAL. END SUMMARY.

2. VERY EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, A GROUP OF MEN IN A  
CAR ATTEMPTED TO SEIZE A BANNER FROM A GROUP OF 20  
OR SO CGT PICKETS IN FRONT OF A REIMS' GLASS FACTORY.  
DRIVEN AWAY, THE MEN AFTER SOME TIME RETURNED AND  
OPENED FIRE ON THE PICKETS, WOUNDING ONE FATALLY AND  
TWO OTHERS SERIOUSLY. A FEW HOURS LATER FIVE  
LOCAL MEN WERE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH THE CRIME,  
WHICH HAS BEEN DENOUNCED IN THE STRONGEST TERMS BY  
THE GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES, EMPLOYERS  
ASSOCIATION, AND THE UNIONS. THE CGT AND THE CFDT  
HAVE CALLED FOR NATIONAL FIVE MINUTE WORK-STOPPAGE  
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TUESDAY AS A GESTURE OF PROTEST, AND PRESS AND MEDIA  
COVERAGE OF THE EVENT HAVE BEEN HEAVY AND WILL  
CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO BE SO, WITH THE POLITICAL LEFT  
MAKING AN EFFORT TO TURN IT INTO A PROPAGANDA  
BONANZA.

3. COMMENT: THIS EPISODE IS THE LATEST IN A

LONG-STANDING BATTLE BETWEEN THE FAMILY-OWNED 1800-EMPLOYEE FIRM AND THE CGT. LAST WEEK, THE COMPANY FIRED TWO CGT SHOP STEWARDS WHICH PROVOKED THE PRESENT WALK-OUT; A SUBSEQUENT CLASH BETWEEN STRIKERS, NON-STRIKERS, AND POLICE, AND AN ENSUING PUBLIC DISPUTE BETWEEN THE CITY'S COMMUNIST MAYOR AND THE LOCAL PREFECT OVER THE USE OF THE POLICE. IT IS, THUS, A HIGHLY UNTYPICAL SITUATION IN TERMS OF THE CURRENT FRENCH LABOR SCENE. INITIAL REPORTS, MOREOVER, SUGGEST THAT THE SHOOTING WAS AN UNPLANNED CONSEQUENCE OF THE ATTACKERS' POSSIBLY DRUNKEN RAGE AT BEING UNABLE TO SEIZE THE BANNER.

4. THE UNTYPICAL NATURE OF THE EVENT, HOWEVER, MAKES IT NOT THE LEAST LESS DANGEROUS. ALTHOUGH THE SWIFT ARREST OF THE APPARENT ATTACKERS WILL HELP KEEP THE WILDER KIND OF SPECULATION IN CHECK, THE CGT HAS ALREADY CLAIMED IT KNOWS THAT THE CRIMINALS ARE CITROEN EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CFT). THE CFT HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING VERY CLOSE TO THE AUTO AND CERTAIN OTHER MANUFACTURERS, PARTICULARLY CITROEN, AND IS REGARDED AS SOMETHING OF A PARIAH BY THE OTHER UNIONS. ANY POSSIBLE TIE-IN (NO MATTER HOW INNOCENT) BETWEEN THE KILLERS AND THE CFT (WHICH HAS DENOUNCED THE CRIME) THUS COULD HAVE POTENTIALLY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.

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5. MORE IMPORTANT STILL, THE EPISODE ALSO PROVIDES A USEFUL RALLYING AND PROPAGANDA POINT FOR THE LEFTIST POLITICAL UNIONS. SINCE THE MAY 24 NATIONAL STRIKE (SEE PARIS 15339), THE CGT-CFDT-FEN HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR A NEW ISSUE TO KEEP UP THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT MOMENTUM. THE ABSENCE OF ANY SUCH ISSUES HAS PERMITTED THE OTHER UNIONS TO RESUME THEIR FREEDOM OF MANEUVER, BOTH JOINTLY, AS IN THE CASE OF THE FO-CFTC DEMAND FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO RESUME REAL BARGAINING; AND SINGLY, AS IN THE CASE OF THE FO SIGNING AN ACCORD IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY ON REDUCTIONS IN EMPLOYMENT. THE FO, CFTC, AND CGC REMAIN FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THEIR OWN POLICIES AND SHOW NOT THE SLIGHTEST EVIDENCE OF GOING OVER TO THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT POLITICAL CAMP.

6. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE REIMS INCIDENT  
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WILL GIVE THE CGT-CFDT-FEN ALLIANCE THE ISSUE IT NEEDS TO TRY TO ORGANIZE ANOTHER BIG PUSH FOR "SOLIDARITY" BEFORE THE SUMMER DOLDRUMS SET IN. THE FIRST POSSIBLE TEST MAY COME AT THIS COMING WEEKEND'S CGC CONGRESS AT VERSAILLES. ANOTHER SIGN OF WHICH WAY THE WIND IS BLOWING WILL BE IF FEN PRESIDENT HENRY BREAKS SHORT HIS LEADER-GRANT VISIT TO THE US TO RETURN HOME.  
GAMMON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROPAGANDA, LABOR STRIKES, CIVIL DISORDERS, DEATHS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PARIS16596  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770201-0320  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LABOR VIOLENCE IN REIMS  
**TAGS:** ELAB, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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